

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
BioLab Fire Westlake - Removal Polrep  
Final Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region VI

**Subject:** POLREP #2  
Final Polrep  
BioLab Fire Westlake  
  
Westlake, LA  
Latitude: 30.2353336 Longitude: -93.2595198

**To:** Craig Carroll, Region 6  
Reggie Cheatham, USEPA OLEM  
Daniel Lambert, LDEQ

**From:** Gary Moore, FOSC

**Date:** 9/28/2020

**Reporting Period:**

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Background

<b>Site Number:</b>	A6TY	<b>Contract Number:</b>	
<b>D.O. Number:</b>		<b>Action Memo Date:</b>	
<b>Response Authority:</b>	CERCLA	<b>Response Type:</b>	Emergency
<b>Response Lead:</b>	STATE	<b>Incident Category:</b>	Removal Assessment
<b>NPL Status:</b>	Non NPL	<b>Operable Unit:</b>	
<b>Mobilization Date:</b>	8/27/2020	<b>Start Date:</b>	8/27/2020
<b>Demob Date:</b>	8/28/2020	<b>Completion Date:</b>	9/28/2020
<b>CERCLIS ID:</b>		<b>RCRIS ID:</b>	
<b>ERNS No.:</b>		<b>State Notification:</b>	
<b>FPN#:</b>		<b>Reimbursable Account #:</b>	

#### 1.1.1 Incident Category

Emergency Response

#### 1.1.2 Site Description

Facility Fire

##### 1.1.2.1 Location

910 I-10 Service Rd  
West Lake, LA 70669

##### 1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

The incident resulted from a chemical reaction involving water and granular chlorine pool shock at a manufacturing facility from damage caused by Hurricane Laura.

#### 1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

The manufacturing facility was damaged as a result of Hurricane Laura which allowed water to impact the bulk containers of trichloro-s-trione (granular pool shock). A chemical reaction and fire ultimately resulted in a plume that traveled northeast into the City of Westlake.

## 2. Current Activities

### 2.1 Operations Section

#### 2.1.1 Narrative

The EPA became aware of this incident at approximately 9:30 am as a result of a call from LDEQ. At the time of the report to the Louisiana State Police (LSP) Hotline at approximately 8:40 am, it was reported that there was no fire but decomposing product. The EPA contacted the Plant Manager at approximately 9:40 am and he was on his way back to the plant from evacuating due to the Hurricane. By 10:00 am, the LDEQ informed EPA that there was a fire. The LSP and LDEQ personnel responded to the incident. At approximately 11:45 am, EPA dispatched the ASPECT aircraft out of Addison, TX and its START Contractor out of Baton Rouge, LA. The EPA coordinated with the LSP and they indicated that the company hired US Fire Pump/Hazmat Specialty Services to extinguish the fire and handle the environmental response and cleanup activities and CTEH to perform facility and community air monitoring. These RP contractors were mobilizing from Houston, TX and Baton Rouge, LA.

#### 2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

Upon arrival of US Fire Pump/Hazmat Specialty Services, they began setting up to flood the building with water to knock down the vapors and extinguish the fire. Fire water began being pumped around 3:00 pm. These actions were somewhat successful until another area of the facility began smoking because of

product decomposition.

The LDEQ and CTEH conducted initial limited air monitoring prior to the EPA team arrival at approximately 2:30 pm. The EPA team supplemented the air monitoring activities being conducted by CTEH and LDEQ. The initial readings were below the AEGL-1 guidelines but since that time elevated detection above those levels have been recorded but there is some concern about the accuracy of the readings. The team will attempt to do comparisons to confirm the equipment readings.

As of 10:30 pm (August 27), the decomposition and plume were still ongoing. The fire fighting team and cleanup team continued actively working the incident.

As of 11:30 pm (August 27), the plume had diminished significantly and was not noticeable beyond the property boundary. The fire fighting and cleanup team continued actively working on the smaller warehouse to completely eliminate the plume. Air monitoring will continue until the incident is complete as determined by the LSP.

On August 28 at approximately 2:30 pm the LSP lifted the shelter-in-place and opened I-10. The EPA team demobed its air monitoring team at approximately 4:00 pm (Aug 28) as the fire was out with minor smoldering and no detections within the residential areas. The RP contractor will continue both facility and community air monitoring. At approximately 4:00 pm (Aug 28), the team noticed approximately 50 dead fish near where some fire water was escaping into Contraband Bayou (Outfall 022) along with elevated chlorine readings. The RP was requested by LDEQ to place boom to collect floating debris as well as begin collecting water samples while at the same time determine how to eliminate flow to the Bayou.

The RP contractors begin cleanup process by removing product offsite while at the same time ensuring that any reactions were neutralized.

On August 30 at approximately 5:00 pm, the LSP ended the emergency response and handed over the remediation effort to Biolab with LDEQ oversight.

From August 30 through September 28, the RP has continued cleanup actions at the facility. On September 6, EPA became aware that the Chemical Safety Board (CSB) was investigating the incident and was onsite. On September 18, the RP contractor completed the air monitoring/sampling efforts associated with the response and cleanup. The RP will continue cleanup efforts associated with the remaining chemicals located within the baghouse area. The State of Louisiana (LDEQ) continues to provide periodic oversight and monitoring of the cleanup effort.

### 2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)

#### 2.1.4 Progress Metrics

<i>Waste Stream</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Manifest #</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Disposal</i>

## 2.2 Planning Section

### 2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

The LDEQ will continue to perform periodic monitoring of the RPs cleanup progress going forward until determined complete.

#### 2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

The RP will continue the cleanup process as required by LDEQ. LDEQ will insure that such cleanup meets their remediation goals. .

#### 2.2.1.2 Next Steps

The EPA plans no further actions related to this site except for receiving periodic updates on progress and completing final site reports

#### 2.2.2 Issues

## 2.3 Logistics Section

No information available at this time.

## 2.4 Finance Section

No information available at this time.

## 2.5 Other Command Staff

No information available at this time.

## 3. Participating Entities

### 3.1 Unified Command

Louisiana State Police  
Biolab - RPIC

### **3.2 Cooperating Agencies**

Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

### **4. Personnel On Site**

No information available at this time.

### **5. Definition of Terms**

No information available at this time.

### **6. Additional sources of information**

No information available at this time.

### **7. Situational Reference Materials**

No information available at this time.